



# Solid Waste Update

A publication of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Volume 7; Number 2

November 2003

## Seward County Landfill: An Integrated Waste Management Facility

by Paul Graves

Seward County Landfill (SCL) has developed into a state-of-the-art solid waste facility. The facility includes:

- Subtitle D municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF)
- Construction & demolition landfill
- Paunch composting
- Household hazardous waste facility
- White goods and metals salvaging
- Tree and brush burn site
- Closed pre-Subtitle D MSWLF
- Closed industrial landfill for paunch disposal.

In addition to Seward County, the SCL serves Grant and Meade Counties, and some areas of the Oklahoma panhandle. The MSW service area for SCL is estimated to comprise a total population of about 55,000.

Approximately 72,000 tons of waste (91% MSW) were disposed at SCL in 2002, and 35,000 tons (97% paunch) were diverted for composting/recycling. Based on disposed tonnage, SCL is the 7th largest MSWLF of 18 currently active in Kansas. SCL's 33% waste diversion rate, in addition to separate city and county recycling, will add many years to the life of the landfill.

Mike Tabor has been the Director of SCL since 1992. Under his leadership, the tonnage handled by SCL has more than doubled

and many innovative approaches have been implemented. A 12-person staff constructs many of the landfill features including the compacted clay liner and leachate collection system. The facility is completely fee-funded, generating

annual gate revenues of approximately \$2.2 million.

SCL has had its share of challenges, including groundwater contamination. The presumed source is the unlined pre-

Subtitle D MSWLF. A "pump and treat" remediation system is in place to clean the groundwater. An average of about 15,000 gallons per day of contaminated groundwater is pumped through an air stripper at an annual cost of about \$12,000.

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Seward County Landfill Facility

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## Future of the Solid Waste Grants Program - Tipping Fee Increase May be Needed

by Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management

Over the past 7 years, KDHE has awarded over \$13 million in grants to help communities implement projects to reduce the amount of waste which is landfilled in Kansas. Over 300 grants have been made to cities, counties, regional authorities, non-profit organizations, public institutions, and private companies to establish or enhance recycling and composting programs. Working in combination with local investments, the statewide "Kansas Don't Spoil It" public education initiative, and technical training provided at the annual Recycling and Composting Works

Conference, grants have helped increase municipal solid waste recycling from just a few percent in the early 1990s to nearly 20 percent in 2003.

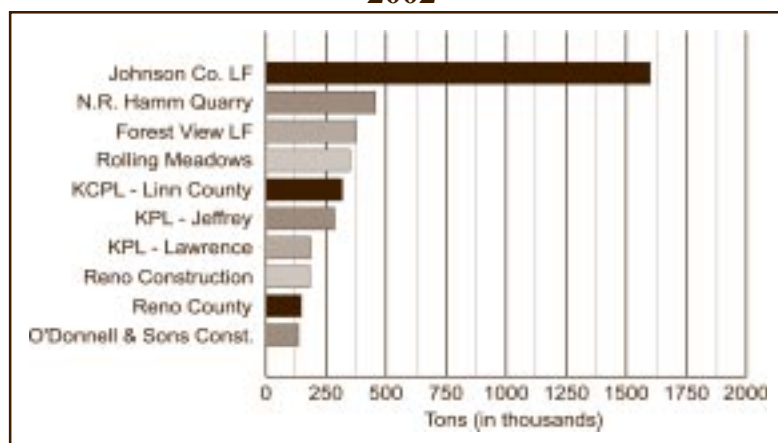
Despite this noteworthy progress, Kansas recycling and composting programs have not yet matured and many cities and counties still have only limited services. Improvements are desirable with respect to the permanency of facilities, the adequacy of equipment for the storage and processing of recyclables, and the availability of services in some communities that have thus far been left behind.

**A group of solid waste advisors met with KDHE in August 2003 and recommended that the grant program be continued to help maintain the progress achieved over the past decade and to bring waste reduction programs to maturity over the next decade.**

The continuation of this grant program, which expends \$1.2 million per year, will not be possible based upon current revenue to the solid waste management fund. The \$1 per ton landfill tipping fee does not generate enough revenue to support all solid waste program activities, including staff labor, public education, technical training, waste sweeps, illegal dump clean-ups, old dump repairs, and grants. For the past few years, expenditures have exceeded revenue, but the fund balance will no longer permit this spending practice. Expenditures should henceforth approximate revenue. *(continued on page 4)*



**Top 10 Landfills by Volume  
2002**



### **C&D Landfill Owner & Operator Workshops on New Regulations**

Workshops on new regulations for construction & demolition landfills will be held in various locations around the state of Kansas during February 2004. Dates, times and locations can be found on our website at [www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste).

For more information, contact Dennis Degner at 785-296-1601 or e-mail [ddegner@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:ddegner@kdhe.state.ks.us)

## WORKS! 2004 *by Jim Rudeen*



Planning continues for the WORKS! 2004 Conference on Solid Waste Management to be held March 23-25, 2004.

You won't want to miss this special Anniversary Celebration when the conference returns to Lindsborg where it all began ten years ago.

Activities are planned to reflect on a decade of this highly successful conference and recognize some of the parties responsible for advancing effective solid waste management in Kansas.

New for 2004 will be sessions and speakers focusing on safety and health issues associated with recycling, composting and management of household hazardous waste. A number of roundtable discussions are planned to allow participants to share their knowledge and expertise. A highlight of the Conference will be a keynote address by nationally renowned television producer and native Kansan, Bill Kurtis.

The Wednesday morning General Session will feature a special video presentation documenting the challenges Kansas has faced in solid waste management and how far the State has come in effectively dealing with these issues.

For more information on WORKS! 2004, contact Jim Rudeen at 785-296-1603 or e-mail [jrudeen@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:jrudeen@kdhe.state.ks.us)

**How many  
WORKS!  
Conferences have  
you attended?**

**Have you attended all 9  
Recycling & Composting  
Works! conferences? How  
about 7 or 8? If so, please let  
us know, because we would  
like to recognize you at this  
year's 10th anniversary  
conference in Lindsborg.**

**Call us at (785) 296-1600 or  
send an e-mail to  
[bwm\\_web@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:bwm_web@kdhe.state.ks.us)**

## Kansas School Lab Sweep Program

*by Maria Albert*

The Kansas School Lab Sweep Program is designed to remove unwanted or obsolete chemicals from secondary schools in the state. KDHE coordinates the removal of these chemicals with the schools and ensures proper disposal. The hazardous waste is removed through a state contract with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.

To become eligible to participate, the Superintendent or an authorized representative must sign an agreement form with KDHE. The agreement form simply states that the school will manage chemicals wisely and avoid unnecessary accumulations in the future.

To make the project manageable, KDHE has divided the state into six regions. Each fiscal year two regions are targeted for chemical removal. So far, school sweeps have been completed in the southeast, north central and northwest regions of Kansas. A total of 104 schools have participated. From these 104 schools, KDHE has removed 4,832 containers of hazardous waste, including some high hazard materials which presented unacceptable risks to students, teachers, and janitorial staff.

This Fall, the Lab Sweep Program will focus in the northeast region. Removal of hazardous waste chemicals in this region is scheduled for completion in December. The School Sweep Program is scheduled for the southwest region in the Spring of 2004 and the south central region in the Fall of 2004.

Questions regarding the School Lab Sweep Program can be directed to Maria Albert at [malbert@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:malbert@kdhe.state.ks.us) or (785) 296-1611.

## Does Your Small Landfill Follow the Approved Plans?

by Paul Graves and Sam Sunderraj

### How and Where to Build It?

The Bureau frequently receives calls from small arid landfill (SAL) operators that begin like this: "Hello...We're ready to dig the next trench – do we have to send in an application?" Our response is: "That depends – will the trench be developed in the permitted waste disposal area according to approved plans?" Often, the operator does not know. We then gather more information in order to provide appropriate guidance.

Occasionally we discover that a landfill was constructed differently than shown on the approved plans, or built in a manner inconsistent with regulatory requirements. In some cases the plans are vague, which contributes to these problems. A Better Way!

Landfills should be constructed per the approved

design plans. A professional engineer's certification to this effect is required each time major construction is done such as excavating a trench, placing final cover, etc. If you don't have detailed design drawings or text to follow, then please contact us and we will point you in the right direction to obtain them. If your landfill doesn't look like the one shown on the drawings or described in the text, then please submit plan modifications for the bureau to review and approve. If you've followed the plans exactly – congratulations!

At this point, some may say: "We followed the approved plan exactly and then KDHE sent us a letter requiring us to change it!" This has occurred most notably when the specified protective cover soil was too shallow to prevent frost penetration into the low permeability cap. Unfortunately, this requires the

plans to be corrected and the closure cost estimate and financial assurance adjusted.

### Modifications De-Mystified

A "significant" modification requires a permit application form and other documents along with a public comment period, if appropriate. Modifications are "significant" when the landfill capacity will increase by 10% or more, or will include expansion of the permitted property.

Other modifications, such as slight changes to the disposal capacity or corrections to the plans to reflect the actual layout, would generally be termed "minor" modifications. Usually a request letter and amended plans are enough to process minor modifications.

### Let's Work Together

We urge you to conduct a self-audit of your facility to determine if what exists on the ground matches the design plans. If not, or if you are not sure, please contact us to help you figure out what may need to be done.

Another way we hope to help in this area is through some upcoming workshops in western Kansas. In February 2004, workshops on the new construction & demolition landfill regulations will include a topic on improving SAL plans. Flyers for these workshops will be mailed to all SALs by January, and registration information will be posted on our web site.

## Future of Solid Waste Grants Program

(continued from page 2)

The advisor group encouraged KDHE to seek legislation in 2004 to increase the tipping fee to include a built-in inflation factor which would be applied to the fee every two years. Without this increase, the future of the grant program is uncertain.

Nevertheless, KDHE intends to announce next year's grant program this winter and receive applications in the Spring of 2004. Grant awards in July 2004 will be contingent upon the availability of funding. If the higher fee is placed into law and fairly passed on to the public, the average family of four will only pay an extra \$1 to \$1.50 per year for trash service.



## Hodgeman County Recycling Center

by Kent Foerster



107 E. Wash Street, Jetmore, Kansas is the home of the Hodgeman County Recycling Center. This 50' x 20' building was expanded in 2002 with a Round #10 (\$23,036) KDHE grant. The 22' x 30' expansion with new drive has a new vertical bailer for cardboard and plastics. This program is another great example of partnerships. The City of Jetmore provided needed cash (\$6,200) while Hodgeman County provided construction assistance including concrete, floor jacks and pallets. Hodgeman County Economic Development Assistance directs the education, promotion, and volunteers, like Lloyd Wilson and local youth.

The program accepts aluminum, #1 milk jugs, #2 pop bottles, cardboard, newspaper and office paper (including shredded). Lane's Recycling of Ulysses was its initial primary market. After attending a regional Recycling Roundtable and the WORKS conference, they connected with First Step Recycling of Great Bend which now allows this growing program to take magazines, junk mail, books, phone books and paper (chip) board. Hodgeman County which started with a once a month truck pick up in 1996, now functions as a six days a week, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. drop-off facility.

### Seward County Landfill *(continued from page 1)*

Beef packing plants in the Liberal area send SCL about 130 tons per day of paunch, which is partially digested grain and manure removed from the digestive tracts of processed cattle. SCL is only one of two paunch composting operations in Kansas – the other is Chamness Technology, Inc. near Dodge City – and there are only a handful of these operations in the nation. During composting, the paunch reaches a peak temperature of about 150° F, destroying pathogens. The compost is much sought after by local landscapers and farmers.

Major upgrades recently completed at SCL include the construction of a forcemain so leachate can be pumped rather than hauled by truck to the City of Liberal wastewater treatment plant, and the rerouting of power lines around the property allowing landfill development in the former easement. Another initiative – currently in the design stage – is an alternative final cover system to utilize evapotranspiration and a capillary barrier in lieu of a standard low-permeability cap to keep the waste dry.

This profile illustrates that a mid-size landfill can be economically viable and cutting-edge. The Seward County Landfill is truly an integrated waste management facility in that substantial amounts of solid waste are diverted from land disposal, providing resource recovery and preserving landfill capacity for waste which presently has little to no recovery value.

### Accepting Nominations to the Kansas Solid Waste Management Hall of Fame

Do you know someone who has made a difference in the Management of Solid Waste in Kansas? We want to recognize those who have made a difference through consistent innovative program design, dedication to excellence, or commitment to environmental stewardship.

Nomination forms are available on our website at [www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste) or by calling (785) 296-1600

For more information, contact Jim Rudeen at (785) 296-1603 or by e-mail at [jrudeen@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:jrudeen@kdhe.state.ks.us)

## Financial Assurance Guidance for Annual Permit Renewals for County MSWLFs and SALs *by Brian Busby*

In general, local government officials have done a good job in preparing documents to meet the financial assurance requirements for their solid waste facilities. For the most part, the financial test submittals are complete and thorough. However, there are a few issues that all county officials should be mindful of when completing the financial test documentation. They are as follows.

1. Coordinate the latest approved closure/post-closure cost estimates with the assigned certified public accountant firm. The financial test must be based upon the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the latest completed fiscal year and the current closure and post-closure cost estimates.
2. Review the requirements of the public notice component as identified in K.A.R. 28-29-2110(d) and as required by Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18. Both requirements identify disclosure requirements that relate to landfill closure and post-closure cost estimates and the life of the landfill.
3. Ensure the financial test documentation package is complete before submitted. Your package needs to include the CAFR, the chief financial officer's letter which includes the financial test factors and ratios, and the auditor's special report. The CAFR includes the auditor's independent report and the public notice component in the Notes to Financial Statements that completes the financial test documentation.

Attention to these areas will improve the efficiency of our review and decrease the need to request additional information. A two-page checklist is available that identifies all requirements for documenting a complete financial test. This checklist can be obtained from the Bureau of Waste Management web site at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste/index.html>. Also, a sample disclosure statement for the public notice component requirement is available upon request. If you have any questions about applicable financial assurance requirements, please contact Brian Busby at (785) 296-0680 or at [bbusby@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:bbusby@kdhe.state.ks.us).

## Assessment of Safety Practices at Recycling and Composting Facilities *by Dennis Degner*

Last August owners, managers, and operators of recycling and composting facilities across our state were asked to participate in an assessment of safety practices. They were told that the information developed from individual facility assessments would be kept confidential and would be used to help determine the general level of safety in the operation of recycling and composting facilities in Kansas. Only a limited number (30) of the approximately 1,500 recycling facilities were visited. Likewise, only a limited number (seven) of the 104 permitted and registered composting facilities were visited. By October 31, 2003 all visits were completed and the data evaluation phase of the project began.

The information gained from these visits will be used in the following ways: (1) develop safety information on recycling and composting facilities in our state that can be used to present safety training for interested participants at the WORKS! 2004 Conference on Solid Waste Management in Lindsborg on March 23-25, 2004; (2) improve the safety practices for personnel involved in operating recycling and composting facilities; (3) improve the design, safety, and operational efficiency of recycling and composting facilities; and (4) provide all Works Conference participants a summary of results from the assessment of safety practices at representative facilities.

We believe that the summary information developed from this project will be beneficial in improving the safety practices at recycling and composting facilities across our state. Hopefully, you can attend the Works Conference this coming spring and learn more about this very important aspect of your facility's overall operations.

# Landfill Permitting Laws and Regulations Under Review by Task Force

*by Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management*

In response to concerns raised by the public and various government officials regarding the permitting of new solid waste landfills, KDHE initiated a process to evaluate and improve the landfill permitting process. Meetings have been held with interested parties and a technical task force has been established to assist the department with the development of appropriate changes to state laws and regulations. Legislation to modify the permitting process will likely be introduced in the 2004 session and changes to applicable regulations will follow over the next one to two years.

On September 24, 2003, KDHE met with the task force which includes public and private sector landfill owners and other interested persons representing environmental groups, counties, cities, and other state agencies. Although the task force is not in total agreement, some preliminary recommendations from the majority of participants are provided below.

## Changes to State Laws

All landfill applicants should be required to carry out preliminary site evaluations (PSEs) through which the following information is assembled: (1) an evaluation of applicable location restrictions; (2) a description of site characteristics in accordance with criteria to be established in regulations; and (3) applicable standards based upon the type of landfill and identified site characteristics. KDHE would review each PSE, prepare a written analysis of each PSE for local county officials, and be willing to participate in a public meeting if a county makes such a request. The PSE would not be part of the official permit application and KDHE's acceptance of the PSE would not constitute approval of the proposed landfill.

Time periods should be established in the law for KDHE to review solid waste permit applications, PSEs, and other submitted documents related to permitting.

KDHE is also seeking input from the task force on an increase to the Subtitle D landfill permit application fees to cover the true cost to the state of processing a permit application.

## Changes to State Regulations

The task force will continue to work with KDHE to make the following additions to the current solid waste regulations:

- Establish detailed scope for PSEs for each landfill type
- Define criteria to describe site characteristics as part of PSEs
- Determine applicable standards for all landfill types and special site characteristics
- Establish requirements to ensure out-of-state hazardous waste is not disposed of in Kansas landfills
- Establish enhanced standards for the expansion of existing sites in areas restricted for the development of new landfills
- Revise post-closure and financial assurance requirements to require periodic reviews of the post-closure period as the period decreases to determine the need for time extensions



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## **Calendar Items**

### **January 2004**

**Pre-Selection of Emergency Animal Burial Sites at  
CAFOs Workshops**

January 13 - Garden City      January 21 - Hutchinson  
January 14 - Wakeeney      January 22 - Emporia  
January 15 - Concordia

### **January-February 2004**

**Solid Waste Grants Workshops**  
Various locations - to be determined

### **February 2004**

**C&D Landfill Owner & Operator Workshops on  
New Regulations**

February 4 - Garden City      February 12 - Chanute  
February 5 - Hays      February 13 - Topeka  
February 11 - McPherson

### **February 2004**

**Composting at Confined Animal Feeding Operations  
Training Sessions**

February 10 - Ft. Scott  
February 12 - Garden City

### **March 23-25, 2004**

**WORKS! 2004 - Lindsborg**

**Solid Waste Update**



**Kansas Department of Health &  
Environment**

**Prepared & Distributed by  
The Bureau of Waste Management**

**Direct inquiries and opinions to:  
KDHE - BWM  
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